

Try a Double StreakZ Rig for Shallow Water Bass

By: Randy Kuhens • KY Lake Fishing Guide

In the fall, on Kentucky & Barkley lakes, there are scores of bass in the back of bays feasting on shad and at times, they can be difficult to catch. Like everyone else during the fall transition, my clients and I have experienced some challenges competing with Mother Nature and consistently catching fish. Nothing is more aggravating than watching a nice bass bust a shad on top and have him ignore your artificial offering. A Double StreakZ Rig can up the odds in your favor and be just what the doctor ordered ... with emphasis on the "Z"!

What is a StreakZ?

The StreakZ is a minnow-imitating soft jerkbait made by Zman that will draw strikes when other baits fail. Why choose the StreakZ? The ElaZtech material in the

StreakZ won't tear like ordinary soft plastics and the natural buoyancy of the material gives the bait a built-in natural action that entices a strike even from a stubborn bass. Think of it this way ... added action and more fish caught on the same bait = a WIN WIN for the angler.

What is a Double StreakZ rig?

The rig consists of two soft jerkbaits that work in harmony to imitate baitfish under duress. The idea is to create the illusion of a school of baitfish trying to escape a predator or one shad chasing another. To make this rig work, you will need one barrel swivel and two 4/0 EWG offset hooks and two StreakZ soft jerkbaits.

How do I assemble the rig?

Start by threading the main line from your pole through the top eye of the swivel barrel and tie a hook on the end. Tie an 18-inch leader to the bottom eye of the swivel and then add a hook to the end of that line.

Attach the weightless soft jerkbaits on each hook weedless style by pushing the hook thru the fold in the bottom and thru the back of the bait so the hook lays flat in the slit on the top of the bait. Now you have a setup where one StreakZ is about 18 inches ahead of a second one. For those of you that are thinking about a longer leader, just remember, the longer the leader is, the more erratic behavior the bait will have. However, it can be very difficult to cast and land a fish on.

Line choice is an important factor!

This setup calls for a braided main line for a couple of reasons. The braid casts a long way and it sinks along with the leader which is 100% fluorocarbon. Also the swivel slides up and down the line and braid resists abrasion better than other lines. I also choose this line setup because of its versatility. If a subsurface presentation is required, when the baits are jerked, there's little or no line stretch and the baits will dive more naturally. If you use mono or fluorocarbon, the main line floats a little too much and the mono has too much stretch which will result in missed strikes. A good choice for the main line is Green 15lb Power Pro as well as 10-pound P-Line 100% fluorocarbon for the leader.

Working the bait ...

The rig casts extremely well and, when rigged properly, it won't tangle or twist. Also, you can make long casts and cover a lot of water with this setup. There are some things to consider when working the bait though. Keep your rod tip on the surface or slightly below, which will pull the baits under and allow the StreakZ to slowly return to the surface. This is especially effective when the water is slick and the fish are skittish. The buoyancy of the ElaZtech material allows the StreakZ to slowly return to the surface



Ky Lake Fishing Guide Randy Kuhens with a healthy Largemouth Bass caught using the Double StreakZ Rig!

rather than lie motionless or slowly sink. This built-in action provokes many strikes and herein lies the beauty of this rig. It's the natural action of the StreakZ as it floats to the surface that the bass seem to like.

Generally speaking, I employ a jerk, jerk-then-pause retrieve if it's a slow bite. It's the quick jerks and the subsequent float to the surface that make the baits appear as injured shad.

If the fish are super aggressive and chasing bait big time, raise your rod tip and work the rig as fast as you dare, but keep it on top. It's important to match the action to the mood of the fish. It's a good idea to wait until you feel the fish before you set the hook. If not, you'll most likely be singing the blues about the one that got away. On occasion, we have caught two at a time and some big ones too!

With all the new baits, presentations and techniques being developed and thrown at us on a daily basis, sometimes it's hard to pick one out that you can be effective with. The Double StreakZ rig has saved my rump on several guide trips this fall and is fast becoming a go-to method for Kick'n Bass

clients when fishing the back of bays or skinny water for bass. There's going to be a lot of great fall action before the winter sets in and ample time for you to try out the StreakZ Rig. So, give it a try! To Book a trip with Randy Kuhens and Kick'n Bass Guide Service send an email to: rk@kicknbass.net or www.kicknbass.net.

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